

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1978-MC-FFS

DATE: December 27, 2018

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospital, Physician MD, Physician DO, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Rural Health Clinic, Clinic, Community Mental Health Center, Psychologist, Certified Nurse Midwife, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, Clinical Social Worker, Federally Qualified Health Center, Nurse Practitioner, Behavioral Health and Physician Assistant Providers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Billing Telehealth Services Update

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

[Informational Letter 1912-MC-FFS](#)¹ Billing Telehealth Services instructed providers on how to bill telehealth services to the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) see below.

The IME has been made aware that the POS 02 was not loaded on all appropriate codes and that providers have continued to bill with the modifier GT to indicate telehealth services. This has been corrected. Please use POS 02 to indicate telehealth services. CMS eliminated the need for the GT modifier on January 1, 2018 it will be recognized only as informational going forward.

Originating Sites

An originating site is the location of a Medicaid member at the time the service is furnished via a telecommunications system. Originating sites can be the following:

- The offices of physicians (provider types 02, 03) and other practitioners (psychologists, social workers, behavioral health providers, habilitation services providers, and ARNPs).
- Hospitals
- Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs)
- Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs)
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
- Rural Health Clinics (RHCs)

¹ https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1912-MC-FFS_BillingTelehealthServices.pdf

Originating sites are paid a facility fee for telehealth services. The facility fee is an amount paid to the originating site for hosting the patient during a telehealth visit. The originating site would charge the facility fee using Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Code Q3014 (telehealth originating site facility fee). Federal Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) would not bill Q3014 as a separate service because reimbursement for the related costs would occur through the annual cost settlement process.

Distant Sites

A distant site is the location of a physician or practitioner at the time the service is furnished via a telecommunications system. Practitioners at the distant site who can furnish and receive payment for telehealth services include:

- Physicians
- Nurse Practitioners (NPs)
- Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Nurse-midwives
- Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs)
- Certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs)
- Clinical psychologists
- Clinical social workers (CSWs)
- Behavioral Health Service providers (licensed independent social workers (LISW), licensed master social workers (LMSW), licensed marital and family therapists (LMFT), licensed mental health counselors (LMHC), or certified alcohol and drug counselors (CADC))

Distant site practitioners submit claims for telehealth services using the appropriate Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or HCPCS code.

Place of Service (POS) Code

The originating site would bill with the POS code that applies to the type of facility where the patient is located and the distant site would bill with POS 02 (telehealth).

Example: Medicaid member “C” is at a community mental health center (originating site) receiving telehealth services from a physician at their office (distant site). The CMHC would bill the facility fee using HCPCS code Q3014 with POS code 53 (community mental health center). The physician would bill the applicable HCPCS/CPT codes with POS code 02 (telehealth).

Modifier 95 Iowa Medicaid will recognize Modifier 95 – Synchronous Telemedicine Service Rendered via Real-Time Interactive Audio and Video Telecommunications System, as informational only.

If you have questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909 or email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.